

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HEAD START OF EASTERN ORANGE COUNTY AWARDED \$2 MILLION GRANT**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,986,611 to Head Start of Eastern Orange County, Inc. The newly formed organization will use the grant to run the Head Start program for Newburgh and the surrounding areas.

"This is great news for the children of the Newburgh area and their families," said Hinchey. "The people who will be running this important program are very familiar with the community and highly regarded by HHS staff. The children served by this program will be in good hands."

"This is a new day for the kids and families that will be served by this new organization," said Ann Pagliaro, Executive Director of HSEOC. "We are committed to working in partnership with parents and community members to provide the highest quality services for children and families."

"It is wonderful to know that Newburgh's children and families will have a world-class Head Start program to attend," said Rhonda Velasco, a former Head Start parent and chairperson of the HSEOC Policy Council. "We look forward to having a program that is responsive to the needs of the community and we'll constantly strive to improve our services."

The Head Start program, which began in 1965, provides comprehensive developmental services for America's low-income, preschool children. Head Start seeks to boost children's education and help strengthen the skills of parents to better nurture and provide for their children.

Founded by a group of long-time Head Start staff, parents and community leaders, HSEOC's mission is to help ensure that Newburgh's Head Start program will continue to be operated by a local, community-based group, while at the same time having access to the best available resources. With the grant in hand, HSEOC will now make long-term investments to improve the quality of the program. Plans are underway for new facilities to meet the community's short and long-term needs. HSEOC hopes to provide more full-day services for working parents, base more Head Start centers in the neighborhoods they serve, and begin to offer services to children and families during the summer months.